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13. [Original] The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of:

detecting each compound in an effluent from the column as a function of time from at least one detectable property associated with each compound; and

determining the identity of each compound from the detected properties.

14. [Original] A method for purifying food stuffs containing purine and/or pyrimidine moieties comprising the steps of:

forming a crude food stuff comprising cellular constituents including digestable proteins and nucleic acid contaminants including a non-shielded purine moiety, a non-shielded pyrimidine moiety or mixture thereof;

contacting the food stuff with substrate comprising an IMAC ligand, where the substrate binds the nucleic acid contaminants; and

removing the substrate comprising the IMAC ligand having bound thereto the nucleic acid contaminants to form a purified food stuff.

15. [Original] The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of

treating the crude food stuff with a DNase, endo or exo nuclease or other nucleic acid digestion enzyme or agent prior to the contacting step.

16. [Currently Amended] A method for purifying a crude DNA and/or RNA compound containing a non-shielded purine and/or pyrimidine moiety comprising the steps of:

forming a crude mixture comprising a target compound and contaminants; contacting the crude mixture with an agent including an IMAC ligand capable of binding to the target compound to form an IMAC ligand complex;